



# Municipality of Anchorage

Office of the Mayor

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

## **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY Housing, Public Health and Safety Crisis**

ISSUED BY THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PURSUANT TO ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.70.040.

WHEREAS, the impacts of state budget cuts pose dire and imminent public health and safety risks; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these cuts within the Municipality of Anchorage will include the loss of more than 700 jobs, decimation of services critical to the wellbeing of the most vulnerable members of the Anchorage community, and a predicted increase of almost 800 individuals in the Anchorage homeless population; and

WHEREAS, direct cuts to services for the homeless within the Municipality of Anchorage alone are anticipated to result in elimination of 229 nightly shelter beds, 561 year round housing beds, critical daytime services for homeless individuals, family, and children, and the various transitional housing programs which currently provide a route out of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated the budget cuts will result in the eviction and denial of health care services to vulnerable populations, including the elderly and persons with disabilities, and a marked increase in the population of unhoused elderly, families, and children with no options for shelter both during the day and overnight as colder weather approaches; and

WHEREAS, cuts to Medicaid, senior benefits, early childhood education, legal services, food banks, domestic violence case management and support, and behavioral health, coupled with anticipated job losses are predicted to drastically increase the number of individuals experiencing a dangerous level of poverty; and

WHEREAS, this manmade calamity is resulting in and will continue to result in direct injury to Anchorage residents and municipal services to such an extent and with such immediacy that extraordinary measures must be taken now to protect the public order, safety, and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted in Article V, Section 5.02 of the Home Rule Charter for the Municipality of Anchorage and AMC 3.80.040, I hereby declare that a Civil Emergency exists within the Municipality of Anchorage based upon the events and circumstances specified above; and

I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY TO PRESERVE PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO THE MUNICIPALITY. THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS HAVE THE POWER OF LAW, SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THE DURATION OF THIS EMERGENCY, AND SHALL SUPERSEDE ALL CONFLICTING LAWS DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS EMERGENCY.

1. The Municipality of Anchorage Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is hereby activated to the extent necessary to address the effects of the budget cuts as they impact housing and public health and safety, including as appropriate all of its provisions. Nothing in this proclamation of emergency shall be construed to limit the powers, authority, and responsibilities provided in the EOP.
2. The requirements of Chapters 7.15 and 7.20 of the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) are hereby suspended for the duration of this emergency, except for the requirements set forth in AMC 7.20.090, for the acquisition of supplies, equipment, services, personnel, fuel or food as may be necessary to preserve and protect the public safety, health, and welfare from the impact of the state budget cuts.
3. For the purpose of maintaining order and providing for housing or temporary shelter, notwithstanding the prohibition of certain specified land uses as provided in AMC Chapter 21.05, the use of temporary structures for emergency shelter, housing, or the provision of social services is hereby permitted during the duration of this emergency.
4. All resources of the municipal government, including municipal personnel, are hereby available as necessary to cope with this emergency. Municipal departments, agencies, or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the purpose of performing or facilitating performance services responsive to this emergency.

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.



Ethan Berkowitz

Mayor

Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska